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JOHN PURCELL, of Richmond, Va., was the son of Charles Purcell, of the city of Limerick, Ireland, who, having inherited property in Richmond, by the death of his uncle of the same name, settled there in 1816, dying eight years afterwards. Mr. John Purcell was born in the latter city, May 31st, 1817. He was educated in the schools of Burke and Rennolds, so well known in Richmond at that day, and at the age of fifteen, entered the drug store of Mr. Thompkins. While engaged here, he attracted the attention of Mr. Alexander Duval, the leading wholesale druggist of the time. In 1840, although a very young man, he was offered an interest in Mr. Duval's business, the firm being Duval & Purcell. After some seven or eight years, he left Mr. Duval, and formed the partnership of Purcell, Ladd & Co., of which he was the head until his death.

He married, in 1843, Miss Martha Webb, of Norfolk, Va., whose father was Commodore Thomas Tarlton Webb, of the county of New Kent, and a distinguished officer of the United States Navy. At the breaking out of the late war, he entered most heartily into the cause of the South, and devoted his means and talents to its advancement. He went to Louisville, Ky., foreseeing the needs of the South for medicine, and, through his acquaintance with chemists, procured, on his own account, over \$100,000 worth of medical supplies, which he turned over to the Confederate Government without profit to himself. He also equipped the battery of artillery which bore his name during the war. The affection and esteem shown him by the survivors of this battery attest the service he rendered them. He served also as a member of the Ambulance Corps, composed of gentlemen of Richmond, who, out of their own means, maintained, and by their own work, succored so many sick and wounded soldiers.

He was one of the first members of the Chamber of Commerce, an originator of the Liverpool & Richmond Packet Co., which built at Richmond the fine packet ships for direct trade between that port and England, and was one of the projectors of the Virginia Steamship Co. between New York and Richmond. He took great interest in railroad development, and was a director and vice president of the Richmond & York River R. R. Co., and also of the Richmond & Mecklenburg R. R. Co., and was largely interested in and greatly promoted the building of the Virginia & Tennessee R. R.

Mr. Purcell was, essentially, a merchant of the old school, and took keen delight in the advancement of commercial dignity and probity. His labors were mainly directed in this channel. If any of his virtues stood out more prominently than another, it was his high sense of justice. He had broad and liberal views in all things, and, while firm and courageous in maintaining his own, he was equally tolerant of the views of others. Mr. Purcell died June 29, 1894.

REV. HENRY CARRINGTON ALEXANDER, D.D., was born of Virginian